

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application, none of which have been amended. No new claims have been added.

Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,328,213 to He et al. (hereinafter "**He et al.**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

He et al. discloses a method of processing an analog electrical signal containing information representative of reflected light from coded indicia, wherein the electrical signal contains edge transitions.

The Examiner has urged, among other things, that column 1, lines 50 et seq. disclose emphasizing edge data that satisfies a predetermined condition as recited in claim 1, and that this passage also discloses emphasizing an edge from the edge data, as recited in claims 8 and 15.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Column 1, line 50 to column 2, line 17 discloses:

In a first aspect, the invention features processing an analog electrical signal containing information representative of reflected light from indicia including regions of different light reflectivity, wherein the analog electrical signal contains edge transitions corresponding to boundaries between adjoining regions of different light reflectivity of the indicia. Edge transitions of at least a part of the analog electrical signal are analyzed to determine a level of blur in that part of the electrical signal. Based on the determined level of blur, one of a plurality of different techniques is selected for producing the digitized signal (in which transitions in the digital level of the signal correspond to boundaries between adjoining regions of different light reflectivity of the indicia).

One or more of the following features may be incorporated in preferred implementations of the invention: The step of analyzing the edge transitions may be performed on a plurality of different parts of the analog electrical signal, and different digitizing techniques may be used on the different parts of the analog signal depending on the level of blur in the different parts of the analog signal. The edge transitions may be ranked by magnitude, and ranked edge transitions may be analyzed to detect the extend of blur represented in the part of the electrical signal. The ranking may be done by forming a histogram of the magnitudes of the edge transitions. A decision that significant blurring exists may be based on the analog electrical signal having edge transitions of substantially different magnitudes. Edge transitions having less than a threshold magnitude may be rejected. The edge transitions may be grouped into sets by magnitude, and whether the difference between a first magnitude associated with a first set and a second magnitude associated with a second set is substantially equal to the difference between the first magnitude and a third magnitude associated with a third set may be tested.

This passage fails to teach, mention or suggest any emphasis of edge or edge data, as recited in claims 1, 8 and 15 of the instant application.

Thus, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6, 13 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants respectfully defer this action until a FINAL Office Action, if any, is received.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-20, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/761,371**
Response to Office Action dated December 22, 2004

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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